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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/534,836	03/24/2000	C. Andrew Neff	324628004US	2620

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EXAMINER

BACKER, FIRMIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 06/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SK

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/534,836	<b>Applicant(s)</b> NEFF, C. ANDREW	
	<b>Examiner</b> Firmin Backer	<b>Art Unit</b> 3621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to a letter for patent filed on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2000 in which claims 1-40 are presented for examination. Claims 1-40 are pending in the letter.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Herschberg (*published literature provided by Applicant*).

3. As per claims 1, Herschberg teach a method of registration, comprising receiving a hash of a public key and a written signature of each of a plurality of registrants through a first channel of communications that includes hand-delivery, receiving a public key and associated identifying information of at least some of the plurality of registrants through a second channel of communications, different from the first channel of communications that excludes hand-delivery, for each of the plurality of registrants, digitally signing the public key if the hash of the public key of the registrant received through the first channel of communications corresponds to the

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public key of the registrant received through the second channel of communications; and providing the digitally signed public keys to an authenticating authority (*see abstract, fig 3.2, chapter 3, 4*).

4. As per claims 2, Herschberg teach a method further comprising rejecting the registrant if the hash of the public key of the registrant received through the first channel of communications does not correspond to the public key of the registrant received through the second channel of communications (*see abstract, fig 3.2, chapter 3, 4*).

5. As per claims 3, Herschberg teach a method wherein receiving a hash of a public key and a written signature through a first channel of communications includes receiving a written message via a courier (*see abstract, fig 3.2, chapter 3, 4*).

6. As per claims 4, Herschberg teach a method wherein receiving a public key and associated identifying information through a second channel of communications includes detecting a signal carried in at least one of an electrical, a magnetic, and an electro-magnetic carrier (*see abstract, fig 3.2, chapter 3, 4*).

7. As per claims 5, Herschberg teach a method wherein the hash of the public key and the written signature of the registrants received through the first channel of communications are non-electronic (*see abstract, fig 3.2, chapter 3, 4*).

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8. As per claims 6, Herschberg teach a method further comprising providing each of the registrants a copy of the respective digitally signed public key (*see abstract, fig 3.2, chapter 3, 4*).

9. As per claims 7, Herschberg teach a method further comprising creating a hash of the public key received through the second channel of communications for comparison to the hash of the public key received through the first channel of communications (*see abstract, fig 3.2, chapter 3, 4*).

10. As per claims 8, Herschberg teach a method further comprising enabling the registrants to submit the public key and associated identifying information through the second channel of communications only after receiving the hash of the public key and written signature through the first channel of communications (*see abstract, fig 3.2, chapter 3, 4*).

11. As per claims 9, Herschberg teach a method further comprising preventing the registrants from submitting the public key and associated identifying information through the second channel of communications until after the hash of the public key and written signature are received through the first channel of communications (*see abstract, fig 3.2, chapter 3, 4*).

12. As per claims 10, Herschberg teach a method further comprising entering the hash of the public key received through the first channel of communications into an electronic database (*see abstract, fig 3.2, chapter 3, 4*).

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13. As per claims 11-40, they disclose the same inventive concept as in claims 1-10.

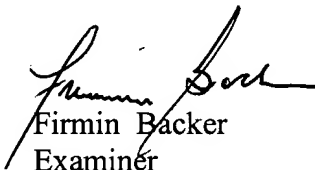
Therefore, they are rejected under the same rationale (*see abstract, fig 3.2, chapter 3, 4*).

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Firmin Backer whose telephone number is (703) 305-0624. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

  
Firmin Backer  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3621

June 11, 2003